



Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Feb 28, 2023

Updates

Xylazine Detected

Xylazine, a large-animal tranquilizer, is being detected in several illicit drug supplies across the country. Often mixed with fentanyl, xylazine depresses the respiratory system and heart function, causing blackouts that can last for hours. It is also known to cause severe skin lesions that may lead to amputation. Because xylazine, otherwise known as "tranq dope," is only approved for animal use, there is no national plan for testing the drug and protecting drug users. Currently, there is no known antidote. Matthew Gladen, a behavioral scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Injury Center, still recommends administering naloxone to individuals who overdose on opioids, because xylazine is often mixed with opioids. Though this is a developing issue and there is no clear federal guidance yet, public health experts are responding to the xylazine crisis in innovative ways. For example, Maryland is implementing a pilot project that staffs local harm reduction centers with medical professionals who can treat the skin lesions that xylazine causes. Traci Green, epidemiologist at Brandeis University near Boston, recommends that states develop new ways to address xylazine by offering safe spaces, medical treatment, and testing.

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Clark County Drug Facts Week Recap

Clark County's CARES (community addiction resources, education, and support), a grassroots group, put on their annual Drug Facts Week on Feb. 6-Feb. 13. Each day, the organization hosted events that focused on addiction and reducing stigma. Drug Facts Week began in 2016 in response to rising overdose deaths in Clark County. Carolyn King, a founding member, notes that the event differs each year as community needs change. This year, the focus was on solutions to the drug overdose crisis. Main events included a speech from Beth Macy, author of *Dopesick* and *Raising Lazarus*. She advocated for the expansion of harm reduction services and medication assisted treatment. Community members also hosted a family prevention day and the week ended with a vigil to honor those who have lost their lives to overdose. Photos from Drug Facts Week can be found on the Clark County CARES Facebook page.

IUPUI ECHO Sessions

IUPUI's Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a technology-based learning experience designed for specialty care providers in Indiana. Monthly Zoom meetings allow local primary care teams to connect with interdisciplinary specialists to discuss best care practices and complex cases, particularly for rural and underserved areas. These meetings are **free** and offer continuing medical education (CME) credits. Check out the six opioid use disorder related tracks below.

ADOLESCENTS WITH SUD ECHO SESSION	FIRST RESPONDERS ECHO SESSION	NON-CLINICAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS ECHO SESSION
PEER RECOVERY AND OUD ECHO SESSION	PREGNANCY AND OUD ECHO SESSION	PRESCRIBERS AND DISPENSERS ECHO SESSION

Upcoming Events

Youth Mental Health First Aid

9 a.m.—4 p.m. CT, March 1

Hosted by: South Southwest ATTC

The South Southwest MHTTC presents Mental Health First Aid, an early intervention education program that teaches participants the signs and symptoms associated with mental health and/or substance abuse challenges. The session is designed to help participants with identification, learning how to listen without judgment, and provide guidance/resources to individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

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NAMI Indiana's Mental Health & Criminal Justice Summit

8:15 a.m.—4 p.m. ET, March 10

Indianapolis Marriott North, 3645 River Crossing Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Hosted by: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Indiana

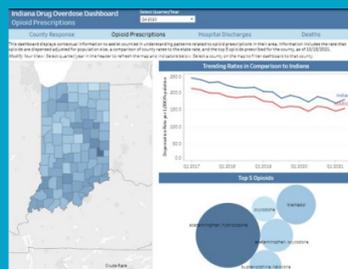
Each year, NAMI Indiana pulls together a diverse group of leaders from the criminal justice field to provide education and new tools for professionals. The Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit creates significant and positive changes in policies within the criminal justice system. Speakers and presenters for the summit include professionals from across a broad range of the mental health and criminal justice spectrum. This annual event gives participants the opportunity to network, collaborate and form partnerships.



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Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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